

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-17 are rejected.

Claims 7 and 11 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 12-15 have been amended.

Claims 18-20 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings, as originally filed.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 10, and 16-17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6, 10, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,737,896 to Mochizuki et al.

Anticipation requires that a single prior art reference disclose each and every limitation of the claim sought to be rejected. The law is clear that a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate all the limitations of the claim from which it depends.

Regarding independent claim 1, the Office Action states that claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without admitting or denying whether or not rejected claims 1-6, 10, and 16-17 are patentable over the prior art, Applicant, solely for the purpose of moving this case to allowance, has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and claim 7 depending therefrom. The Office Action indicated that this would place

independent claim 1 in allowable format. Specifically, the Office Action states that nowhere in the prior art is found the light guide comprises at least two light guide parts which, viewed in the direction of the rays, lie side-by-side and, at their mutually opposed faces, each comprising at least one lights source whose light rays are reflectable at opposingly inclined reflecting surfaces to the light exit side. Independent claim 1 of the present invention has been amended to include these limitations.

Applicant further submits that claims 2-6, 10, and 16-17 depend from amended independent claim 1 and thus, include all of the limitations of the claim from which they depend. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection and allowance of amended independent claim 1 and claims 2-6, 10, and 16-17 depending therefrom.

Allowable Matter

The Office Action states that dependant claims 7-9 and 11-15 are objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As stated previously, independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and claim 7 depending therefrom. The Office Action indicated that this would place independent claim 1 in allowable format and allowance is herein requested.

Further, without admitting or denying whether or not rejected claims 7-9 and 11-15 are patentable over the prior art, Applicant, solely for the purpose of moving this

case to allowance, has amended claims 8-9 and 12-15 to depend from amended independent claim 1. Thus, claims 8-9 and 12-15 include all of the limitations of amended independent claim 1 from which they directly depend. Dependant claims 7 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection and allowance of dependant claims 8-9 and 12-15.

Applicant further submits that new independent claim 18 includes all of the matter of rejected claim 1 and claims 7 and 14 depending therefrom. New independent claim 20 includes all of the matter of rejected claim 1 and claims 7 and 15 depending therefrom. The Office Action indicated that this would place new independent claims 18 and 20 in allowable format. Further, new dependant claim 19 includes all of the limitations of independent claim 18 from which it depends. Therefore, Applicant submits that new claims 18-20 are allowable and allowance is respectfully requested.

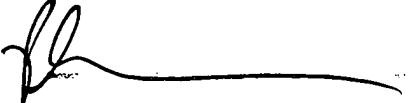
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks the claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-20 as presented, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose each and every element of the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

WARN PARTNERS, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By: 
Philip Warn, Reg. No. 32775

P.O. Box 70098
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

PRW:LMF;mlb